

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR**WRIT PETITION (S) NO. 1619 OF 2019**

Santosh Gupta S/o Late Ramsharan Gupta Aged About 61 Years Posted As Field Assistant, Chhattisgarh Marketing Federation, R/o Shubham Vihar, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur Chhattisgarh.

...Petitioner(s)

Versus

1. State Of Chhattisgarh Through The Secretary, Department Of Cooperative Societies Mahanadi Bhawan, Mantralaya, New Raipur, Post Office And Police Station Naya Raipur, District Raipur Chhattisgarh.
2. Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited The Managing Director, Chhattisgarh, Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited, Sixth Floor, Tower, C Commercial Complex, C.B.D. Sector 21, Atal Nagar, District Raipur Chhattisgarh.
3. The Secretary Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited, Sixth Floor, Tower C, Commercial Complex, C.B.D. Sector, 21, Atal Nagar, District Raipur Chhattisgarh.
4. The Manger (Establishment), Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited, Sixth Floor, Tower C, Commercial Complex, C.B.D. Sector, 21, Atal Nagar, District Raipur Chhattisgarh.
5. The District Manager, Chhattisgarh Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur Chhattisgarh.
6. The Sr. Accountant Officer Chhattisgarh Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited, Sixth Floor, Tower C, Commercial Complex, C.B.D. Sector, 21, Atal Nagar, District Raipur Chhattisgarh.

... Respondent(s)

For Petitioner	:	Shri Vivek Ranjan Tiwari, Advocate.
For Respondents-State	:	Ms. Sunita Jain, Govt. Advocate.
For Respondents 2 to 6	:	Shri Prafull Bharat and Shri Keshav Dewangan, Advocates.

Hon'ble Shri Justice P. Sam Koshy

Order on Board

11.03.2019.

1. The challenge in the present Writ Petition is the order dated 14.02.2019 passed by the Respondent No.3 by which the stoppage of two increments of the Petitioner with cumulative effect has been ordered. In addition there was also an order of recovery of amount made against the loss sustained by the Respondent corporation.

2. At this juncture it has been informed that against the impugned order the Petitioner have preferred an appeal before the Managing Director who is appellate authority and the Managing Director in turn has seized of the appeal.
3. The limited contention of the Petitioner is that though the appeal has been seized by the Managing Director and it is in the process of being heard, the Respondent authorities have initiated steps for recovering the amount of loss which has been alleged to have been caused at the hands of the present Petitioner.
4. Learned Counsel for the Petitioner submits that while appeal is pending the Respondent authorities ought not to have taken steps for recovery. At least they should have waited till appeal is finally decided. The appellate authority would have to consider the entire facts and submission in the appeal and then would reach to a conclusion whether the order of punishment is justified or not. Only then should the Respondent authorities proceeded further with the recovery.
5. The said submission of the Petitioner seems to be a fair proposal. Once when there is an order of punishment having been passed and which is appealable. An appeal having preferred then in the opinion of this Court there is no reason why the Respondents authorities to immediately act on the order of punishment. Once when the appeal has been indisputably seized by the Appellate Authority the Appellate Authority is obliged to decide the appeal within a stipulated or a reasonable period. If he has not decided within the stipulated period and at the same time initiating to recover the alleged amount of damage from the Petitioner, then the very purpose of filing an appeal gets frustrated.

6. In view of the same ends of justice would meet if the present Petition is disposed of with a direction to the Appellate Authority / Respondent No.2 to take decision on the appeal of the Petitioner which is pending before him preferably within a period of 3 months from today. It is further ordered that till the Appellate Authority decides the appeal the Respondent authorities shall not act upon the impugned order so far as the recovery is concerned.
7. With the aforesaid observation the present Writ Petition stands disposed off.

Sd/-
(P. Sam Koshy)
Judge